ENG217: Writing from the Margins of Contemporary American Literature (Habib)

Libguide: http://libguides.bristolcc.edu/217/habib

Research and Instruction Librarian: Emily Brown
emily.brown@bristolcc.edu
774.357.3040

FINDING HELP

Chat: Chat reference service are available online. A librarian is available to chat during research help hours.

Telephone: Contact the research help desk at 508-678-2811 ext. 2108.

In person: A librarian is available at the research help desk at the following times:
  Monday through Thursday: 9:00 am - 8:00 pm
  Friday: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
  Saturday: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
  Sunday: 12:00 - 5:00 pm

Book-A-Librarian (appointment): This service is open to all BCC students, faculty, and staff. You can "book" time with a librarian (up to 60 minutes) so that we can sit down and help you, one-on-one, with your research.

E-mail: Complete the form on the help page, and a librarian will e-mail you back with answers and suggestions. You will receive a reply within 2 business days.

RESOURCE OVERVIEW

For your assignment you will need to use at least to find several credible sources. Here’s what we’ll be covering today.

- Finding Books
  - Books & Authors
- Finding Biographies
  - Biography in Context
- Finding News
  - The New York Times / Newspaper Source / Proquest Newspapers
- Finding Criticism
  - Artemis / Literature Resource Center
KEYWORD SEARCHING

Phrase Searching
Phrase searching allows you to search for a phrase, as opposed to individual words. To complete a phrase search, use quotation marks around two or more word phrases. This will give you far more specific results.

Example: salvage the bones = 214 results  “salvage the bones” = 17 results

Truncation
Truncation allows a researcher to search for multiple endings for a single word in a single search instead of trying spelling variations in multiple searchers. Most databases require the use of the asterisk (*) as the truncation symbol. If you’re not sure what a database requires, consult a librarian or the Help Menu of the database.

Example: mother* finds items with the words mother, mothers, mothered, mothering, motherhood, etc.

Choosing Keywords
Choosing your search words, or keywords, correctly can mean the difference between relevant and irrelevant results. Start with your thesis statement or question for inspiration on choosing keywords.

Example: There is a sad beauty to be found amid the poverty of southern Mississippi, and it can be found in the pages of Salvage the Bones. This novel is about the very margins of contemporary literature and life, and invites us into a world that is both harsh and forgiving.

-> If this were your thesis statement, logical keywords and alternative keywords could be:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>“salvage the bones”</th>
<th>poverty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>family OR love OR beauty OR motherhood</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Alternative keywords help to identify other words that may be used in articles to say the same thing. Choosing alternative keywords is almost as important as choosing your main search terms.

Boolean Logic
Using Boolean Logic in your advanced search means that you are using command words (Boolean operators) to connect your search terms. Boolean Logic allows you to conduct a more specific search and find relevant and specific information. The three Boolean operators are **AND**, **OR**, and **NOT**.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AND</th>
<th>OR</th>
<th>NOT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Search Results will contain all terms used.</td>
<td>Search results will contain at least 1 term used.</td>
<td>Search results will not contain the eliminated word.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“salvage the bones” <strong>AND</strong> mother*</td>
<td>poverty <strong>OR</strong> family</td>
<td>&quot;salvage the bones&quot; <strong>NOT</strong> &quot;men we reaped&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FINDING SECONDARY SOURCES

Books & Authors
Through the use of expertly written and arranged content and a dynamic, cutting edge user interface, Books & Authors makes exploration of genre fiction and essential non-fiction fun.

Biography in Context
Biography in Context merges reference content with periodicals and multimedia organized into a user-friendly portal experience while also allowing users to search for people based on name, occupation, nationality, ethnicity, birth/death dates and places, or gender as well as keyword and full text.

New York Times
Available historically in Proquest Newspapers, or from 1985 in the New York Times database. Provides access to editorials, reviews, interviews, and other commentary on both authors and works of fiction and non-fiction.

Artemis
Artemis Literary Sources integrates full-text literary content with metadata and subject indexing and provides workflow tools to analyze information. You can research authors and their works, literary movements and genres. Search across your library's Literature databases to find full text of literary works, journal articles, literature criticism, reviews, biographical information and overviews.